

## Georgia Department of Human Resources

### LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families pay heating or cooling costs and weatherizes homes. LIHEAP is administered by the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Community-Based Programs. Applications are accepted at all community action agencies, as funds are available.

#### **Regular Energy Assistance**

Issue checks to suppliers of home heating energy or fuel, to offset heating costs for eligible households. Last year more than 70,700 families received benefits, averaging \$217 each.

##### *Eligibility*

Households with income up to 150 percent of the poverty level and responsible for paying their household's heating bills. Priority: Homebound households and elderly 65 years and older.

##### *Benefits*

Based on household income, a one-time benefit of either \$174 or \$220. If the Department of Human Resources (DHR) declares a weather-related crisis in any part of the state or additional funds are required, more aid may be authorized.

#### **Weatherization**

About 1,000 households receive help each year; administered through a contract with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, Georgia Division of Energy Assistance.

##### *Eligibility*

Households with income up to 150% of the poverty level. Priority is given to elderly and disabled people.

##### *Benefits*

Ceiling insulation, caulking, and weather-stripping, provided by local community action agencies and government/nonprofit groups. Average cost: \$1,400; may not exceed \$2,664.

- In FY 2004, LIHEAP served 90,160 households. The total benefit was \$21.7 million. The average benefit paid was \$217.
- The average income of households served was \$7,985.
- Forty-three percent of households served included handicapped people, and 56% included people age 65 and over. Twelve percent were homebound households.
- 48,010 (47%) of the households served owned their own home. 53,328 (53%) were renters.

### **Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)**

Eligible consumers who were faced with a disconnection of service could receive \$174 or \$220 in benefits. This component of the Energy Program was funded through a federal block grant and the Heating Energy Assistance Team, Inc. The availability of funds determines when this assistance is provided.

About 19,400 households received assistance in having their primary heating source restored during the federal fiscal year.

### **SCANA Regulated Provider Program**

Low-income natural gas customers who meet the state's LIHEAP qualifications are referred to the regulated provider for the special gas prices. DHR contracts with the local Community Action Agencies to determine eligibility for the regulated natural gas service.

#### **Eligibility**

The Community Action Agencies determine the eligibility of those households qualified to purchase natural gas at a special rate. It is not necessary to apply for or receive LIHEAP to qualify for regulated natural gas service.